

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (currently amended) An information stream monitoring system comprising:
 - an information monitoring device that monitors one or more electronic documents in an information stream, and compares information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule; and
 - a forum spawning device that queries a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied, and creates a new forum based on one or more replies from the set of users.
 2. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an invitation determining device that determines the set of users queried by the forum spawning device based on the one or more electronic documents.
 3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum spawning device queries the set of users to determine ~~the~~ a need for the new forum.
 4. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber determining device that determines a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.
 5. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber maintenance device that associates at least one user and the new forum.
 6. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic document storage device that stores the one or more electronic documents.
 7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic document is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

9. (currently amended) An information stream monitoring method comprising:

A2 monitoring one or more electronic documents in an information stream;

comparing information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule; ~~and~~

querying a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied; and

creating a new forum automatically based on one or more replies from the set of users.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein querying the set of users determines need for the new forum.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising associating at least one user and the new forum.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more electronic documents.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more electronic ~~document~~ documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

17. (original) An information storage media comprising:
information that monitors one or more electronic documents in an information stream;
information that compares information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule;
information that queries a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied; and
information that creates a new forum based on replies from the set of users.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, further comprising information that determines a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.

19. (original) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines need for the new forum.

20. (original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that determines a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.

21. (original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that associates at least one user and the new forum.

22. (original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that stores the one or more electronic documents.

23. (currently amended) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the one or more electronic document documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

24. (currently amended) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein ~~the~~ an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

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25. (currently amended) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein ~~the~~ an information comparison compares at least one of: subject information; electronic document posting information; and electronic document tracking information.

26. (currently amended) An information monitoring system comprising:
an information monitoring device for monitoring data associated with electronic documents in an information stream, the information monitoring device adapted to compare the data from the electronic documents according to a rule; and
a forum spawning device for querying a set of users when the rule is satisfied, and for creating a forum based on a reply from the set of users.

27. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

28. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

29. (new) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

30. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

31. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

AZ 32. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

33. (new) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

34. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

35. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

36. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic

been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

A2 37. (new) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

38. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.
